

Greenway Committee Meeting Summary

Nov. 16, 2021

Present: Trish Garrigan, Brian Goldberg, Sherry Anders, Marie Elwyn, Betsy Colburn- Mirkovic

- 1. Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.
- 2. Announcements** – No announcements – other than the usual about recording.
- 3. Land Management/Acquisition** – updates
 - a. GAD/Dupree – Ann Gagnon of Fish and Game is trying to move this forward; it has been sitting so long the Lands Committee will need to reapprove it. The property had a poorly written trust connected to it and the lawyers need to work it out. Betsy noted this is an important piece of property since it connects to the river and has the Smith property on the other side. She urged us to keep working at it, since the trust said the land should go to the Town for conservation, it would be a shame to lose it for that purpose. Sherry and Jen from Con. Comm. will draft a letter to the Town Administrator saying why we want them to get Town Counsel moving on this. A draft will be circulated to the Greenway Committee to review by Nov. 23.rd
 - b. Great Rd/2A parcels - Betsy took a look at these parcels and noted that most of them are listed for \$10K but the 5.1 parcel is listed for \$ 90K? Sherry said she would check on this.
 - c. Farrar property near Little Turnpike (22 acres) – Sherry reached out to new owner and they will talk after Thanksgiving. There was a question about the municipal parcel adjacent to it and if there is road access to either property, it was not clear. This raised the concern that the municipal parcel is on the list for potential housing in the Housing Production Plan (HPP). Brian noted the need to cross-check that list with lands for conservation. Betsy and Trish agreed to do this comparison, and report back at the next meeting with any areas of concern.
 - d. Farrar property on Townsend Rd. (92-A-1, 40 ac) – A motion was made and passed unanimously to write a letter to the Select Board supporting Mass DFG's purchase of this property; Anne Gagnon of DFG will be addressing the Select Board on November 29 to request they take action that will expedite the sale.

Article 97 deed review – Project is done, Betsy and Sherry are just finalizing the numbers. Brian asked if there are any parcels on the list that might cause issues with passage at Town Meeting. He suggested we pass the list by other boards, like Planning Board, and Recreation, Town Administrator, and Town Assessor. Trish suggested that Betsy and Sherry present the list to our group first so we could all be familiar with what it entails. Betsy and Sherry said they would present it at the next meeting.

4. Fredonian Nature Center

ADA Implementation Project Update – We are waiting to hear about the ADA grant. Sherry spoke to Ruth Maxant about the possibility of using goats to eat the invasives and Ruth has taken a look at the property. Maybe we could get a grant to pay for this? Brian suggested Gaynor might have some insight/recommendations on invasives control, he will check with her. Betsy has been in touch with a colleague about non – chemical alternatives and warned that there are legal suits out there related to chemical use and the Town should stay away from that. Sherry is trying to get estimates from some

consultants and Brian suggested that we could possibly use a Scope of Work submitted as part of an estimate as an outline for a grant application. Trish will check with Alan Field about the work they are doing on invasives to see if he has any ideas. Sherry noted how this property has historically had issues with not being cared for and wondered if we should try to get input from the surrounding community as to what they want for the park. Betsy asked if NRWA still has an AmeriCorps person who could help with public engagement. Trish wondered if while we are doing the survey for the revised Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) that we could get some input on Fredonian Park this way. Brian suggested maybe we could get a grant for a public engagement process.

5. **Mass Wildlife Barrens Restoration Project** – Sherry will check with Al Futterman on an update as she is hearing concerns from people. Marie mentioned there will be a Conservation Commission site walk on 11/23. She will get back to us with the details.
6. **Shirley Trails** – Betsy will work on next version of the trails document. Brian reported that Jay Duffner and Michelle will be hosting a meeting to kick off the monthly hikes.
7. **Public Engagement** – Sherry is looking for ideas for the next Newsletter.
8. **OSRP Update** – Brian reported the Committee has met 3 times to do the scoping of the project and to decide where to focus time and energy as well as give out assignments for various parts of the effort. They will be focusing next on who the primary audience for the plan is. Betsy suggested that updating the population characteristics with census data is not hard and is quite interesting, and might be a way to at least feel some progress in being made.
9. **5/18 Discussion Follow up** – Sherry circulated the slide show for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) for us to review and get back to her with any questions.
10. **Committee Member Comments** – Brian noted concern about the need to monitor conservation restrictions (CR) and what steps are needed. Apparently, Mike Fleming had an intern who put together a framework on what to do, and other groups like the Land Trust Alliance have guidance on how to do this. What is our next step? Betsy noted that the CR's held by the town are in Appendix C of OSRP and we should at least do those. Also, Sherry noted concern that there are 4 past development projects where CR's need to be recorded in the deeds and they haven't been.

Since there were several items on the agenda tonight related to the Planning Board the idea of inviting someone from the Planning Board to the next meeting was made, or having a small working group of Greenway and Planning Board is another possibility. Sherry will check on inviting someone from the Planning board to our next meeting. Issues were related to CR's, HPP and CPA.

11. **Public Comments** – none
12. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion to approve the minutes from the Oct. 19th meeting was made and passed unanimously.
13. Adjourned at 8:23